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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 26, 1955

SUBJECT: Finnish-Soviet Relations.

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Nykopp, Finnish Ambassador
BNA - Mr. Parsons
BNA - Mr. Hilliker

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In connection with the Ambassador's call on another subject he mentioned the recent Finnish-Soviet agreements for the withdrawal from Porkkala naval base and twenty-year extension of the 1948 treaty of mutual assistance. He referred particularly to the article by Roscoe Drummond in the New York Herald-Tribune of which he approved. Mr. Hilliker mentioned also the material issued by the Finnish Embassy in Washington and the Ambassador replied that Mr. Drummond's article was along the same line.

In answer to my question about possible "strings" attached to the return of Porkkala, the Ambassador stated emphatically that there were no secret concessions from the Finnish side (he seemed to have confirmed his somewhat qualified earlier denial to Mr. Merdchant).

In a general discussion of the possible effects of the Porkkala withdrawal, the Ambassador responded to mention of the Soviet emphasis on "co-existence" with Finland by noting that some American papers had turned this against Soviet Union by saying that if the Russians could "co-exist" with Finland on its immediate border it ought also to adopt a policy of a nonintervention toward its European satellite neighbors.

M. C. Parsons Jr.

OCT 17 1955

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